

## TAKE NOTES

### Culture Note

During the Middle Ages, knights swore loyalty to their lord or king. Breaking that oath of loyalty was a great sin. Mordred's close family relationship to Arthur make his sin even worse. What is his relationship to Gawain, who dies because of his actions?

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### English Language Development

*Morte d'Arthur* uses many old words not usually used today. What pronoun is used today instead of *ye*? Use the surrounding words to figure out the meaning of *ye*.

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Then, to help you read this paragraph, cross out all the *ye*'s and write the modern pronoun instead.

## from *Morte d' Arthur*

### Sir Thomas Malory

King Arthur creates an ideal kingdom called Camelot where talented knights sit at a Round Table and all feel equal. But jealousy and other human weakness eventually destroy Camelot. Arthur is forced to fight his friend Sir Lancelot in France. While he is away, his illegitimate son Mordred tries to steal the English throne. When Arthur races home to fight Mordred, Arthur's nephew Sir Gawain is killed almost immediately. Gawain returns to Arthur in a dream, surrounded by lovely ladies Gawain has helped in life. He warns Arthur not to fight Mordred the next day. If he does, both sides will take huge losses, and Arthur will die. So Arthur arranges a one-month treaty. The two sides each bring fourteen men to the place where the treaty will be signed.



And when King Arthur should depart, he warned all his host that, and<sup>1</sup> they see any sword drawn, "Look ye come on fiercely and slay that traitor Sir Mordred, for I in no wise<sup>2</sup> trust him." In like wise Sir Mordred warned his host that "And ye see any manner of sword drawn, look that ye come on fiercely, and so slay all that ever before you standeth, for in no wise I will not trust for this treaty." And in the same wise said Sir Mordred unto his host, "For I know well my father will be avenged upon me."

### Vocabulary Development

**host** (HOHST) *n.* army; troops

**slay** (SLAY) *v.* kill

**avenged** (uh VENJD) *v.* gotten revenge

1. and if.

2. **wis**: way.